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## WASHINGTON NOTES

(SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—How should the merchant marine of the United States be built up? is the question which the national chamber of commerce is this week putting to its members all over the nation. The chamber in a letter sent out this week from Washington headquarters refers the question to the 600 or more chambers of commerce, boards of trade and similar organizations which belong to the national body, expecting the answers to be filed before June 22. By that date the sentiments of something like 360,000 American business men should be registered. The national chamber of commerce, considering that the merchant marine question is one of the liveliest topics of discussion before the American people at this time, hopes to crystallize American sentiment through this appeal to such an extent that a groundwork for the settlement of the question will be laid.

"Mother" Jones, aged eighty-three and known throughout the mining sections of the country as "the angel of the mines," organizer and propagandist of trade unionism in general and mine workers in particular, appeared before the commission of industrial relations this week, and gave the members of that body a graphic story of her experience in strikes and lockouts dating from the Pennsylvania railroad strikes in 1877 and including her recent experiences in the Paint Creek field in West Virginia and in Colorado.

"I live wherever there is a fight; wherever the capitalist robbers are fighting the workers, I go there," she said in answer to one of the questions put to her. At one time she drew a vivid picture of the wife of an imprisoned striker, who came to her, bearing her new born babe in her arms, and begged her to tell her what she could do or should do while her husband was in jail.

"It is on the quivering breasts and blasted hopes of these mothers that the rich carry on their philanthropies," declared "Mother" Jones, raising her voice in dramatic appeal.

The body of General W. W. Kirkland, 82 years old and an officer of the Confederate army, who died this week at the home of his son-in-law, R. D. Shepherd, was taken yesterday to his former home at Shepherdstown, W. Va., where funeral services and interment are to be held. Gen. Kirkland had a long and interesting war record. When the war broke out he entered the service of the Confederate states and became an aid of Gen. William Hardee, who was the uncle of his wife, Susan A. Hardee. Owing to his valuable services in that post he was made a brigadier general and was one of the youngest men to attain brigade command in the Confederate army.

A marriage license was issued here to James E. Turner, of Richmond, and Miss Adz N. Shickle, of North Mountain, W. Va.

Miss Roberta Fleming, of Fairmont, accompanied by Miss Dorothy Loomis, who has been her house guest, are expected to arrive here this week to be guests at the school of Miss Madira for commencement week.

It is the season of the sweet girl graduate again, and Washington, which is noted for the number of its seminaries and private schools for girls is receiving daily announcements of the programs and preparations for graduation exercises, arrangements for which are fast being completed. Among the first exercises to be held were those of Chevy Chase seminary, which opened Fri-

day night with a musical. Saturday afternoon Mrs. Barker, wife of Dr. Samuel Nelson Barker, the principal, gave a reception for the graduating class which has two West Virginia girls in its membership. These are Miss Ellen Adair and Miss Julia Neville Lawson.

Hon. D. W. Gall, president of the West Virginia Society in the capital, and formerly of Philippi, left this week for San Francisco to attend the quadrennial convention of the order of the Maccabees, Mr. Gall being the representative chosen by the district. He was armed with literature and badges about Washington, furnished by the joint convention committees and also bears an invitation to the order to hold its next meeting in Washington which was written by Commissioner Oliver Newman, of the district.

Word was received here this week of the death of Col. Jere Williams, 83 years old, Civil war veteran and veteran employee of the pension office, which occurred Friday at Brooklyn. The body was brought to this city Friday and were given a military burial in Arlington. Col. Williams was born in West Virginia in March, 1832, and during the war enlisted in the Twenty-fifth Ohio Infantry, of which he was later put in command. He was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, captured and thrown into Libby prison, where he remained for eight months. Following the war Col. Williams held various clerkships under the government but his longest term of office was in the bureau of pensions, where he served for many years.

The following fourth class postmasters have been commissioned during the last week: Sallie E. MacDonald, who recently became a bride has been re-appointed for the office at Coopers; Peter Summerfield, Dry Fork; Henry J. Huff, Hemphill; Homer A. Brennenman, Wire Bridge; Dr. Zilla Paugh, Ireland; M. Cecil Peck, Crown Mill; Effie V. Gates, Fibert; Albert L. Moses, Kyle; Berryman Green, Mahan; Gilbert A. Tolley, Belgrove; John A. Gilkeson, Marting; Albie Miller, Mud; Frank W. Quick, Quick; Hugh J. Cahill, Smithton; Charles E. Campbell, Acme; F. E. E. Richards, Dain; R. E. Fennell, Quincy; William A. McElwain, Wainville; William A. Simmons, Braxton; Wilbert Harless, for the new office at Caldona; and Lulow N. Armstrong for the new office at Nod; Sarah P. Musick, Varney; Fernie M. Leaf, Grassy Meadows, Greenbrier county; William J. Runyon for the new office at Newly called Eugene; David W. Rowsee, Points; Guy West for the new office at Stark; and James B. Saville for the new office at Vanderlip.

Commissions have been also sent to the following postmasters who hold

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their commissions by presidential appointment, which have been confirmed: Willard Williams, for the office at Moorefield, W. Va.; John H. Hastings, designated as acting postmaster for the office at Robertsburg; Katherine Gilbert to be acting postmaster at the office at Wilcoe.

Mail messenger service has been ordered discontinued for Davisville, Wood county, also for Green Mill, Wetzel county from New Martinsville, effective May 15.

Reid L. Moore has been appointed postmaster for the new office at Dunden, Clay county, W. Va. Edridge D. Wells has been appointed postmaster at Fort Branch, Logan county, to succeed James Somers, resigned. Isaac W. Perrell has been appointed for Laake, Logan county, to succeed B. S. Sanders, resigned. William J. Moore has been named as the first postmaster for the new office at Rogun, Logan county. John W. Lloyd, appointed for this postmasterhip in June 16, 1914, declines to serve. William E. Deaton has been appointed for the office at Rose Siding, Mingo county, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the last postmaster, S. G. McNulty. William N. Lawson has received his commission as fourth class postmaster for the office at lawson, Logan county. William Moss has been named to succeed Mrs. J. Price, resigned, at the office in Douglas, Calhoun county. Jonathan L. Bennett has been appointed for the office of Middleton, Marion county, to succeed F. Neely, removed by the order of May 7, 1913. William R. Sellers has received his commission as fourth class postmaster for the office at Clovers Gap, Marion county.

Rural delivery service has been ordered established, with tri-weekly service for Gay, Jackson county. The route covers 14.82 miles and will serve eighty-five families. Service will be inaugurated June 15. A route has also been ordered for Oak Mill, Fayette county, twelve miles in length, which will serve 195 families.

Charles E. Conner has been appointed to fill the vacancy in the rural letter carrier force caused by the resignation of Clement L. V. Calvert on route No. 1-out of Woodruff, W. Va.

Other changes in fourth class postmasters include the appointment of E. C. Young for Gaines, Upshur county, to succeed Stillman Young, resigned; Lewis C. Lowther for Hurst, Lewis county, to succeed Henry Linder, resigned; Mrs. Otis Hill for the office at Julian, Boone county, to succeed George H. Hill; William Wallace appointed last February for this office, declined to serve; William R. Blair for the office at Miami, Kan-

awha county, to succeed J. M. Epperly, resigned; Mrs. Elizabeth Morrell for the office at Salama, Pleasants county to succeed A. Mallet, resigned; Paris C. Blankenship for Wharncliffe, Mingo county, to succeed R. L. Hatfield, removed; Joseph A. Surratt for Zada, Raleigh county, to succeed William E. Willie, resigned; and James A. Pack for Bowles, Lincoln county to take the place of Hannah J. Pack appointed in February, who declined to serve.

A very interesting session of physicians and members of the state board of health is in session this week at the New Willard. This is the thirtieth annual convention of the organization of secretaries of state and provincial boards of health. The topics of greatest interest which have been discussed so far were the spread of the dreaded pellagra, hitherto supposed to be a disease confined to tropical or sub tropical regions, but which, it is now said, prevails throughout the North, and exists in many of the New England states. There was also a lengthy discussion of trachoma and what has been accomplished in fighting the disease that has taken such hold on the mountain inhabitants of West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. It was characterized by health authorities in the conference as one of the most dangerous of human ailments in that it almost invariably resulted in total blindness, when untreated or improperly treated. It is said that while conditions in the three states mentioned are under control and show remarkable improvement, that it has crossed the Mason and Dixon line from the mountain sections, and invaded some northern states, scores of cases having recently developed in Indiana.

Ignorance on the part of state legislators was denounced by several of the speakers as the greatest handicap under which they had had to work up to this time. In addition to trachoma, characterized as the worst menace to sight and the chief cause of present day blindness, the report also dealt with faulty lighting of school rooms and other buildings used for study, and with other causes of preventable blindness and impaired vision.

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